

1 1. An apparatus for exposing a metered amount of liquid specimen to at least one  
2 immunochromatographic test strip, which comprises:

3 a base pan;

4 a fluid specimen collecting vessel held above said pan;

5 said vessel including a vertical wall and a bottom piece having an aperture;

6 a distribution valve mounted between said vessel and pan, said valve being shaped and  
7 dimensioned to, in a first position, admit a metered sampling of fluid from said vessel through  
8 said aperture, and, in a second position, dump said sampling into said pan; and

9 at least one test station shaped and dimensioned to hold a chromatographic test device  
10 above a portion of said pan and in contact with said sampling.

1 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said pan, vessel and station define an enclosed chamber  
2 for holding said sampling;

3 said device further comprises a receptacle above said pan for holding a reagent, said  
4 receptacle having an opening; and

5 said valve comprises means for exposing said chamber to said opening when said valve  
6 is placed in said first position.

1 3. The apparatus of Claim 2 which further comprises a desiccant compound in said receptacle;

2 whereby said chamber is exposed to said compound when said valve is in the first  
3 position.

1 4. The apparatus of Claim 1 which further comprises at least two of said stations; and  
2 said chamber comprises a liquid-receiving section under said valve and at least two  
3 passageways, each leading from said receiving section to one of said stations.

1 5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said receiving section comprises at least two isovolumetric  
2 portions, each of said portions being in communication with one of said passageways;  
3 said portion having inlets controlled by said valve and being shaped and dimensioned to  
4 admit equal amounts of said sampling.

1 6. The apparatus of Claim 5 which further comprises a control station shaped and positioned to  
2 hold a chromatographic device above a portion of said pan and in contact with said sampling.

1 7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said chamber further comprises at least one channel leading  
2 from one of said passageways to said control station.

1 8. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said valve comprises:  
2 a cylindrical body having an axis oriented horizontally under a median portion of said  
3 vessel;  
4 said cylindrical body having a lateral first cavity shaped and positioned to admit said  
5 sampling through said aperture when said valve is in said first position;  
6 means for rotating said cylindrical body about said axis to expose said first cavity to said  
7 chamber through said aperture when the valve is in said second position.

1 9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said cylindrical body has a lateral second cavity axially  
2 distant and diametrically opposite said first cavity.

1 10. The apparatus of Claim 1 which further comprises means for exposing said pan and station  
2 to a desiccant when said valve is in said first position.

1 11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said pan, vessel and station define an enclosed chamber  
2 for holding said sampling;

3 said device further comprises a receptacle above said pan for holding a reagent, said  
4 receptacle having an opening; and

5 said valve comprises means for exposing said chamber to said opening when said valve  
6 is placed in said first position.

1 12. The apparatus of Claim 11 which further comprises a desiccant compound in said receptacle.

1 13. The apparatus of Claim 12 which further comprises at least two of said stations; and

2 said chamber comprises a liquid-receiving section under said valve and at least two  
3 passageways, each leading from said receiving section to one of said stations.

1 14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said receiving section comprises at least two  
2 isovolumetric portions, each of said portions being in communication with one of said  
3 passageways;

4           said portion having inlets controlled by said valve and being shaped and dimensioned to  
5 admit equal amounts of said samplings.

1       15. The apparatus of Claim 2 which further comprises means for maintaining said sampling into  
2 said chamber under isobaric condition.